

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 25, 27, and 29. Please amend claims 26, 28, 30-31, and 50. Please add new claims 51-69. The claims are as follows:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 25~~ A method for recording server authentication information, said method comprising:

establishing, by a first server of a plurality of servers in a federated computing environment, a trusting relationship between the first server and a second server of the plurality of servers, wherein said establishing the trusting relationship comprises exchanging, by the first server, an electronic certificate of the first server with an electronic certificate of the second server in accordance with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) method;

after said establishing the trusting relationship, obtaining by the first server an authentication policy of the second server, wherein an authentication policy for each server of the plurality of servers is defined as at least one rule of each server for authenticating users of the federated computing environment; and

after said obtaining the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the authentication policy of the second server within the first server.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 26, wherein the at least one rule includes a ~~number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID,~~ a data size for fingerprint authentication, a data size for voice print authentication, or a combination[[s]] thereof.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 26, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, and wherein the authentication policy table of the first server further comprises:

a server address of each server registered therein; and

a relative priority of each server of a group of servers having a same authentication policy in the authentication policy table.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[29]]~~ 26, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication

policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, wherein the authentication policy of the second server is identical to an authentication policy of the first server, wherein a first common user identifier (ID) exists in an authentication information Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) of the first server and in an authentication information LDAP of the second server, wherein the first common user ID is used by a first user in the first server and by a second user in the second server such that the second user differs from the first user, and wherein the method further comprises:

after said registering the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the first common user ID in a exceptional ID table of the first server, wherein the exceptional ID table of the first server stores common user IDs and an indication of one or more servers associated with each common user ID stored in the exceptional ID table of the first server.

32-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 26, wherein the at least one rule ~~includes~~ consists of four rules, said four rules consisting of a number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID, a data size for fingerprint authentication, and a data size for voice print authentication.

51. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the first server, an access request from a user to access the federated computing environment, wherein the first server comprises an authentication policy table that comprises the authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein;

after said receiving the access request, receiving by the first server input authentication information from the user;

obtaining, by the first server, a server address of the second server, wherein the authentication policy of the second server matches an authentication policy of the first server;

transmitting, by the first server to the second server via the server address of the second server, the input authentication information;

after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server, receiving by the first server from the second server a notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user; and

after said receiving the notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user, permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, wherein said permitting is performed by the first server.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server and before said permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, the method further comprises:

receiving by the first server from the second server a token that may be used by the user to access the federated computing environment; and

sending, by the first server, the token to the user.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the token is a credential and a cookie.

54. (New) A system, comprising:

a first server, said first server being comprised by a plurality of servers in a federated computing environment; and

a computer readable storage medium comprising program code stored therein, said program code configured to be executed by the first server to perform a method for recording server authentication information, said method comprising:

establishing, by the first server, a trusting relationship between the first server and a second server comprised by the plurality of servers, wherein said establishing the trusting relationship comprises exchanging, by the first server, an electronic certificate of the first server with an electronic certificate of the second server in accordance with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) method;

after said establishing the trusting relationship, obtaining by the first server an authentication policy of the second server, wherein an authentication policy for each server of the plurality of servers is defined as at least one rule of each server for authenticating users of the federated computing environment; and

after said obtaining the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the authentication policy of the second server within the first server.

55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the at least one rule includes a data size for fingerprint authentication, a data size for voice print authentication, or a combination thereof.

56. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server further comprises:

a server address of each server registered therein; and

a relative priority of each server of a group of servers having a same authentication policy in the authentication policy table.

57. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, wherein the authentication policy of the second server is identical to an authentication policy of the first server, wherein a first common user identifier (ID) exists in an authentication information Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) of the first server and in an authentication information LDAP of the second server, wherein the first common user ID is used by a first user in the first server and by a second user in the second server such that the second user differs from the first user, and wherein the method further comprises:

after said registering the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the first common user ID in an exceptional ID table of the first server, wherein the exceptional ID table of the first server stores common user IDs and an indication of one or more

servers associated with each common user ID stored in the exceptional ID table of the first server.

58. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the at least one rule consists of four rules, said four rules consisting of a number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID, a data size for fingerprint authentication, and a data size for voice print authentication.

59. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the first server, an access request from a user to access the federated computing environment, wherein the first server comprises an authentication policy table that comprises the authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein;

after said receiving the access request, receiving by the first server input authentication information from the user;

obtaining, by the first server, a server address of the second server, wherein the authentication policy of the second server matches an authentication policy of the first server;

transmitting, by the first server to the second server via the server address of the second server, the input authentication information;

after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server, receiving by the first server from the second server a notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user; and

after said receiving the notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user, permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, wherein said permitting is performed by the first server.

60. (New) The system of claim 59, wherein after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server and before said permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, the method further comprises:

receiving by the first server from the second server a token that may be used by the user to access the federated computing environment; and

sending, by the first server, the token to the user.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the token is a credential and a cookie.

62. (New) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium, said computer readable storage medium comprising program code stored therein, said program code configured to be executed by a first server to perform a method for recording server authentication information, said first server being comprised by a plurality of servers in a federated computing environment, said method comprising:

establishing, by the first server, a trusting relationship between the first server and a second server comprised by the plurality of servers, wherein said establishing the trusting relationship comprises exchanging, by the first server, an electronic certificate of the first server with an electronic certificate of the second server in accordance with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) method;

after said establishing the trusting relationship, obtaining by the first server an authentication policy of the second server, wherein an authentication policy for each server of the plurality of servers is defined as at least one rule of each server for authenticating users of the federated computing environment; and

after said obtaining the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the authentication policy of the second server within the first server.

63. (New) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the at least one rule includes a data size for fingerprint authentication, a data size for voice print authentication, or a combination thereof.

64. (New) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server further comprises:

a server address of each server registered therein; and

a relative priority of each server of a group of servers having a same authentication policy in the authentication policy table.

65. (New) The computer program product of claim , wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein, wherein the authentication policy of the second server is identical to an authentication policy of the first server, wherein a first common user identifier (ID) exists in an authentication information Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) of the first server and in an authentication information LDAP of the second server, wherein the first common user ID is used by a first user in the first server and by a second user in the second server such that the second user differs from the first user, and wherein the method further comprises:

after said registering the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the first common user ID in a exceptional ID table of the first server, wherein the

exceptional ID table of the first server stores common user IDs and an indication of one or more servers associated with each common user ID stored in the exceptional ID table of the first server.

66. (New) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the at least one rule consists of four rules, said four rules consisting of a number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID, a data size for fingerprint authentication, and a data size for voice print authentication.

67. (New) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving, by the first server, an access request from a user to access the federated computing environment, wherein the first server comprises an authentication policy table that comprises the authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein;

after said receiving the access request, receiving by the first server input authentication information from the user;

obtaining, by the first server, a server address of the second server, wherein the authentication policy of the second server matches an authentication policy of the first server;

transmitting, by the first server to the second server via the server address of the second server, the input authentication information;

after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server, receiving by the first server from the second server a notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user; and

after said receiving the notification that the second server has successfully authorized the user, permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, wherein said permitting is performed by the first server.

68. (New) The computer program product of claim 67, wherein after said transmitting the input authentication information to the second server and before said permitting the user to access the federated computing environment, the method further comprises:

receiving by the first server from the second server a token that may be used by the user to access the federated computing environment; and

sending, by the first server, the token to the user.

69. (New) The computer program product of claim 68, wherein the token is a credential and a cookie.